

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for July 3, 2023

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Edward Strouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Four Commissioners were present in person. Commissioner May declared that three out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person and one was present via Zoom call, therefore the Town Council had a quorum and was free to conduct business and begin the meeting. The four members of the Board of Commissioners present for the Town of Little Creek Council Meeting: Commissioner Ed Strouse, Commissioner Jason Arrington, Commissioner Adrienne Hegman, and Commissioner Theresa May. Seven members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting:

Dennis May, Carol Williams, Bill Clark, Terry Gentry, Sam Gentry, Carol Puleo, and Penny Gentry. Three residents attended the meeting via Zoom call: Ed Angwin, Clay Crommett, and Susan Freese.

The meeting minutes from the previous month were electronically sent to the commissioners for their review prior to this meeting. These minutes were also made available to all in attendance as hard copies. All commissioners on the board reviewed the minutes from June 5, 2023, and it was noted that one correction needed to be made. The change was so noted, and Commissioner Arrington made a motion to accept the minutes received from the secretary/clerk as written with the correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner May and put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report covering the period from June 5, 2023, to July 3, 2023, was presented electronically to the members of the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. The report was read aloud to the residents at the meeting. Commissioner May made a motion to accept the report as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

The current bills were distributed to the Council members electronically and read aloud at the meeting to attending residents. The formal motion to pay all the current bills was made by Commissioner Arrington. This motion was seconded by Commissioner May and put to full board for a vote. The Board unanimously passed the motion to pay the current bills.

Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
 - Nothing new to report
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Nothing new to report
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
 - Council is still waiting for a price confirmation for a replacement pump.
 - The Dog Walker Service sign was posted on the dog park fence without Council knowledge or permission. These signs will be removed as they are in violation of Town code.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Strouse

- Calls have been and will be made concerning grass needing to be cut.
 - Property of concern on Main Street will be turned over to Kent County.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
- No report

Old Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
- FEMA grant is in and a meeting has been set with all parties and the Nature Conservancy.
- b) **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act) – Commissioner Strouse
- The original amount was \$17,001.21. The Town spent \$6,928.00. This leaves a balance of \$10,073.21 in ARPA funds. These funds have been set aside to assist with upcoming Town improvement projects.
- c) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
- Nothing new to report.
- d) **Southern Flood Study** – Commissioner Strouse
- DNREC Coastal Programs will get a contractor and spend \$75,000 to do this study.
 - There will be no cost to the Town of Little Creek.
 - DelDOT is doing their own study of Route 9. DelDOT funds are available to carry out the project. They chose the same company that completed the Northern Flood Study for the Town of Little Creek to work on the study of Route 9. The area being studied includes the southern portion of Town where flooding is experienced.
 - The actual study has not begun, but the language for the contract between DelDOT and the company conducting the study has been sent to the lawyers and is in the final stages of being written.
- e) **ORPT** – Commissioner Strouse
- ORPT (Outdoor Recreation Parks and Trails) provides up to \$100,000 to towns for their parks and trails projects. If the Town applies and qualifies for this program, we will need to match a portion (25%) of the funds. It is also possible to do an “in-kind” match instead of money.
 - The initial request to be considered for this grant was received by ORPT and the Town has been approved to proceed with the next phase of the application process.
 - The preliminary application asked for \$100,000.
 - The next step is to file the actual grant application.
- f) **Delmarva Power Grant** - Commissioner May
- Commissioner Strouse turned this endeavor over to Commissioner May.
 - The application for this grant is due by July 31,2023.
 - This grant can be used for recreation areas.
 - The Town is going to ask for \$10,000.
 - If approved for this grant, the Town would have to match a portion of these funds but could do a “match in-kind” to cover the Town portion.

- A motion was made by Commissioner May to ask for the full \$10,000 when applying for the grant. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington and put to a vote where it was unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- g) Traffic Calming** - Commissioner Strouse
 - Still waiting for confirmation of the cost to install stop signs in town. These stop signs would be placed on either side of Main Street at the intersection with Port Mahon Road.
- h) Town Christmas Tree** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The original donated Christmas Tree at Post Office/Town Hall did not survive this year’s drought. Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner May will research acquiring another Blue Spruce to replace the one that died.
 - Commissioner May will research possibilities for places to acquire a new tree. This will include contacting the National Arbor Day Foundation to learn more about what they offer.
 - Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner May will work together to provide care for the new tree in the hopes that the new one will weather all seasons.
- i) Board of Commissioners Update**
- j)** – Commissioner Strouse
 - There are still positions that remain unfilled on the current board. Volunteers are encouraged to apply.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) Animal Control Issues** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Complaints have been received concerning barking dogs located at a specific property in Town. Sections 5 and 6 of the Town Ordinances address these concerns. The Council is aware of the residents’ concerns but is not able to do more than issue a letter regarding the complaint that has been filed. County Ordinance states that excessive noise prior to 7 am and after 10 pm is ‘noise nuisance,’ and should be reported to the police. Any evidence of abuse or neglect would be assessed and addressed by Animal Welfare.
 - The decision was made to send a certified letter to the individual who owns the property and to the occupants of the property concerning the complaint and the Town’s response.
- b) Bush Removal by North End of Town** – Commissioner Strouse
 - At the intersection where North Little Creek Road and Route 9 split, there is a bush near the Town of Little Creek sign that needs to be removed.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Hegman to have a service remove the bush as provided the cost of removal is under \$200. Commissioner Arrington seconded the motion, and it was put to a full vote of the Board where it was passed unanimously.
- c) Speed (Traffic) Cameras** – Commissioner Strouse
 - These cameras have been approved by the State of Delaware and enabling legislation is being written.
 - The Town would like to be considered to pilot the program implementation.

- The Town will need to provide documentation to prove the need to place these cameras and a representative from Little Creek will need to be selected to review the data/camera feed and issue tickets for speed violations. Much of the evidence to support the Town's need for this program can be retrieved from the system currently in place.
- Mayor Strouse plans to speak with State Representative Buckson.

d) Comprehensive Plan Review – Commissioner Strouse and Commissioner Arrington

- It is time for the Town to review the comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2016.
- Upon conclusion of tonight's Town Council Meeting, the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Little Creek is officially opening the 30-day comment period regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The document is available for access on the Town of Little Creek website.
- The legal notice will be posted in the designated places within the Town as well as in the State News for publication in the Friday, July 7, 2023, edition. This notice will also be made available online for residents and posted to the website.
- Public Hearing will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023, in the Fire Hall at 6 pm. The August Town Council Meeting will follow at 7 pm.

Public Comment

- A question was asked about the Mosquito Control agreement for the year and when to expect the agency to spray mosquitoes in town. Commissioner May will investigate this and ask the agency to spray as soon as possible.
- A question was asked regarding sidewalk repair and replacement plans. It was brought to the attention of Council members that State Representative Carson promised to replace and possibly extend sidewalks throughout the Town. Mayor Strouse will investigate.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner May. Motion was carried, and the meeting officially ended at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary